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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 13, Iss. 4)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

JUSTICE

Official Organ of the International
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XIII. No. 4. Jersey City, N. J.

Friday, February 20th, 1931

Pres. Schlesinger Given Three Months' Leave

Hope Is Bright For Full Recovery.—
Dubinsky and Ninfo Will Be in
Charge

As reported in the last issue of "Justice," President Schlesinger, whose health was badly affected during the general strike in the dress industry in February, 1930, has been sojourning in the Catskill mountains for the past four months. Physicians' care and the invigorating mountain air have helped him materially, and his complete recovery is now being confidently looked for by all his friends within and outside our own organization.

To make such a recovery even more certain, the General Executive Board voted now to grant President Schlesinger a formal leave of absence for another three months. At the close of the meeting, Bro. Schlesinger left for Parkville, N. Y.

The G. E. B. voted also that General Secretary Dubinsky be left in full charge of the General Office and requested First Vice-President Ninfo to cooperate with Secretary Dubinsky during this period.

International Takes Charge Of Toronto Dress Campaign

G. E. B. Votes to Support Full Program
of Toronto Dress Makers—Strike
Vote Next Monday—Bro. Dubin-
sky Leaves for Toronto.

An important decision reached at the quarterly meeting of the G. E. B. early this week was one with regard to the current drive in Toronto to unionize the dress industry of that city.

The campaign to put the Toronto dress market on the map of our International has been carried on at a very energetic pace by the Toronto Joint Board under the leadership of Brother Bernard Shane, ably assisted by Brother D. H. Langer, special organizer for the trade industry. And the response to the call for organization sounded by the active element in the Toronto International locals appears to have exceeded all expectations.

Within less than three months about 900 dress makers were enrolled into Local No. 72, among

them a number of men cutters and pressers. The meetings called for the purpose of discussing trade and shop conditions with these dress workers, most of whom are native Gentile women, were marked by unusual interest and enthusiasm.

Recently, the Toronto Joint Board forwarded a request to all the local dress manufacturers to attend a conference with the Union for the purpose of discussing a collective agreement in the trade. Up to the time of this writing, however, the Toronto dress manufacturers have failed to reply to the Union's invitation.

From reports presented to the G. E. B. by Vice President Elias Reisberg, who recently visited Toronto at the request of the General Office and from a written report forwarded by Brother Shane, the Toronto dress situation has reached an acute state. If the employers should continue obstinately to refuse to negotiate peace with the Toronto organization, a strike appears imminent.

Acting in this spirit, the G. E. B. decided to endorse all the organizing plans of the Toronto Joint Board.

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Dress Shop Chairmen Hold Big Meeting in Bryant Hall

Shop Heads Instructed to Observe Rig-
idly Union Conditions in Factories.—
No Overtime Unless All Machines
Are Busy.—Drive Against Satur-
day Work in Full Swing.—
Many New Shops Unionized

An unusually well-attended meeting of shop chairmen in the dress and waist industry of New York was held on Wednesday, February 4, at Bryant Hall, filling the large auditorium to capacity and crowding the aisles. The meeting was presided over by Bro. I. Wasilevsky, chairman of the Dress and Waist Joint Board.

Vice-President Luigi Antonini, manager of Local 89, spoke first in Italian, and was followed by Bro. Julius Hochman, general manager of the Joint Board.

After an analysis of the present industrial depression, Brother Hochman made a strong plea to the delegates for concentrated action in the fight for union standards and union work conditions in the dress shops. In case of any difficulty arising, he urged the shop heads to report immediately to the office of the Union, assuring them that the organization is at present well equipped to protect the interests of the workers in every shop. He also emphasized the need of making room for the jobless, and instructed the chairmen not to allow overtime unless all the machines are occupied and the shops are filled to capacity.

Impartial Machinery Helpful

Vice-President Hochman touched further upon the difficulties which the Union is having with the various employers' associations in the dress industry and pointed out to the chairmen the helpfulness of the impartial machinery in the trade in the enforcement of the agreement. He cited the case of Martin Sheer, a manufacturing firm until recently. Without giving notice this firm had moved its factory to another lot, and when the workers reported to work in the

(Continued on Page 2)

Ladies Tailors Call Off Strike

Bad Times in Trade Move Local Leaders
to Give Up Fight Temporarily—
Drive Against Open Shops Will
Be Renewed As Soon As
Economic Crisis Is Past

The strike in the ladies' tailors, members of Local No. 33, against the seven obstinate firms of the Couturiers' Association, was called off this week after a duration of five months.

The local kept up the strike during the last few weeks for two reasons: First, the Union did not deem it proper to disband the strikers while the slack period was still on and there was no hope for them to get work anywhere. Second, the Union had hoped that the times would somewhat improve and that it would in consequence be able to continue the struggle against the members of the Couturiers' Association.

The situation in the industry, however, has not improved. The strikers, exhausted by the five months' struggle, began voicing a demand for calling off the strike. After a careful survey of the situation, the Union decided to meet the wishes of the strikers and called off the struggle.

This, however, does not imply that Local 33 gives up the fight against the members of the Couturiers' Association. The recall of the strike is but a temporary retreat. As soon as times improve the Union will renew the fight against these labor-baiting firms with greater vigor and energy.

G. E. B. Repudiates Chicago Cloak Piece-Work Agreement

International Condemns Chicago Con-
tract as Violation of Union's Policy
—Will Call Local Officials to
Account for Action.—Dress
Drive in Chicago Discussed

The much aggravated Chicago case, which provoked a lot of heated discussion within the widest circles of the I. L. G. W. U. membership in every cloak making center in the country, came, for the time being, to an end at the final session of the G. E. B. meeting.

The Board voted to repudiate the action of the Chicago Joint Board for having entered into a piece-work contract contrary to the policy of the International, and to call to account the administration of the Chicago Joint Board for their action.

Vice President Nagler supported the motion, pointing out, first, that the Chicago Joint Board has by its action violated the week-work policy of the International, and has thereby hurt the interests of the cloak makers in other cities, especially in New York. Vice Presidents Kreindler of Cleveland and Bialis

of Chicago opposed the motion, arguing that under the circumstances the Chicago Joint Board could not have acted differently. A committee from G. E. B. will shortly visit Chicago, where the charges formulated at the meeting of the G. E. B. against the local administration for having signed the piece-work agreement will be fully investigated and an appropriate measure of discipline adopted.

Dress Campaign in Chicago

In his report at the meeting Vice President Bialis pointed out that the dress organization in Chicago is very eager to renew organizing activity in the non-union dress shops. The Chicago Joint Board has in the last couple of months done everything within its means to help the dressmakers to unionize new shops. Local No. 100, nevertheless, appeals to the International for assistance, both material and moral, in extending the drive.

The dress trade in Chicago, next to New York, is probably the largest in the country, and prevalence of non-union conditions in a large part of this trade is bound to affect work conditions in unionized centers. The G. E. B. voted to refer this matter to the General Office for action.

Relief Conference of All N. Y. Locals To Be Called

New York Organizations Will Be Called
Upon to Work Out Measures of
Aid to Own Members

The plan to organize a relief fund for International members in New York City, which was lying dormant since last October, took on a new shape after the G. E. B. had formally instructed the General Office to call a conference of all the locals in New York City to work out a method for raising such a fund.

The conference will be summoned at once, while the season in both the cloak and dress trades is still on. A suggestion that every worker should be taxed a half-day or a day's wages was substituted by a motion that the plan of money-raising be left to the conference itself.

There is little doubt that after the session is over a considerable number of workers in our trades will be found in dire need and these will have to be helped, especially such as were not able to secure any job at all during the season or only worked a part of the time.

Dress Shop Chairmen Hold Big Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

new shop they found 10 machines instead of the former 14. The firm explained that they had rented a smaller loft in order to save rental and that four of the operators would therefore have to leave. The Union at once placed this case before the Impartial Chairman, Dr. N. I. Stone, and after a hearing the Chairman decided that the firm cannot reduce its factory in such manner and must make room for all its workers. The firm was given a week to carry out this decision, and within one week it found larger quarters and is now employing all its former workers.

Another important decision cited by Bro. Hochman was the case of the Aywon Dress Co., where the firm, enraged by the unwillingness of the workers to accept their arbitrary piece prices, began sending out work to contractors while keeping the inside workers idle. The Impartial Chairman decided that the firm could not follow such a practice, and it was instructed not to send any work outside before the inside workers were well supplied with work. The result of this decision was that this shop is now working full time. The Association, in addition, has now instructed all its members to follow out this policy with regard to work in their shops.

Saturday Work Drive Goes On

On Saturday, February 14, a larger number of workers responded to the call for help in the drive against Saturday work in the dress shops, and a number of committees were sent out which stopped a considerable number of shops from work. This drive will continue all during the season every Saturday morning, and the Union calls upon every loyal and active member to report to the office of the Joint Board, 151 West 33rd Street, at 7:30 in the morning, from where the control committees are starting out.

Local 22 Accepts Ruling on Temporary Cards

Secretary Dubinsky, Ninfo, Antonini Visit Board of Local 22

The decision of the special committee of the G. E. B. with regard to the right of cloakmakers to work in dress shops on temporary work cards for two months before they might be compelled to transfer to Local 22, was affirmed by the full meeting of the General Executive Board.

It will be remembered that the Executive Board of Local 22 refused to comply with this decision in a communication addressed to the General Office on the ground that the dressmakers have enough of unemployed in their own ranks and that they would therefore insist on the letter of the constitution which limits such a right to 14 days. A committee of leaders of Local 22 appeared at the meeting of the G. E. B. and asked for a modification of the ruling.

Local 22 Accepts

As we go to press, we are informed that General Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky, First Vice President Ninfo and Vice President Antonini paid a visit on Monday evening, February 17, to the meeting of the Executive Board of Local 22 to explain the meaning and purport of the original decision of the special committee. After a full discussion, the Executive Board of the dressmakers finally voted to accept the decision of the G. E. B. without reservations.

The decision, in full, follows:

"The Committee concluded and unanimously decided that in the existing emergency due to the above conditions, the best interests of all concerned would be served by directing Local 22 to issue temporary working cards, during the present season, for a period of two (2) months to members of the

Dress Joint Board Advises Workers to Ignore Bogus "Strike"

Called Many "Strikes" Settled None, Union's Leaders Warn Dressmakers.—Latest Communist Spasm Will Soon Die Out Like the Other "Strikes" They Had Called in The Past

Anticipating the Communist "strike" in the dress shops scheduled for this week, the Dress and Waist Joint Board in New York City issued this week, under the signatures of Julius Hochman, general manager, I. Wasilevsky, chairman, and Antonio Crivello, secretary-treasurer, a circular letter to all its 25,000 members in Greater New York advising them to "shun like pests" the Communist camarilla and to ignore completely their frantic attempts to demoralize the dress shops.

The letter, which was mailed to every member of the Dress locals, reads, in part, as follows:

"Sisters and Brothers:

"The Communist Party is planning to stage another 'General Strike.' This time they have again chosen the Dress Industry as the scene of their sham battle.

"The Communist Party, under various names, has up to date called many strikes in various industries. But so far they have settled none. Nowhere did they succeed in establishing an organization or in improving the condition of the workers in the slightest degree.

"No one, of course, in the Dress Industry takes these adventures seriously, or has the slightest illusion that they are in the least concerned with the welfare of the dressmakers.

A Stillborn Swindle

"As we recall how miserably their so-called 'dress

strike' collapsed two years ago, when the times in our industry were much better, we haven't the slightest doubt in asserting that this new Communist 'strike' swindle will die before it is born.

"Nevertheless, we consider it our sacred duty to warn every man and woman engaged in our trade to have nothing to do with these imposters, scabs and charlatans, who represent nobody, whose promises aren't worth the paper they are written on, and whose every move is animated by hatred, deceit and treason and leads only to misery, ruin and starvation.

"Pay no attention to any message or communication or call for action unless they carry the authorization of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, Joint Board Dress & Waistmakers' Union and its affiliated Locals 10, 22, 35 and 59.

"Help us to organize the open shops. In case you work in an open shop, report at once to our Organization Department and we will arrange to unionize your shops."

International Takes Charge of Toronto Dress Campaign

(Continued from Page 1)

Board viting to give full aid to the dress workers, even to the extent of a strike, to introduce uniform union work conditions in all Toronto dress shops.

Secretary Dubinsky was instructed to visit Toronto without delay and to assume leadership of the negotiations with the employers, and if that should fail, the International was authorized to sanction a strike against all non-union firms in that market.

Strike Vote Next Monday

As we go to press, a wire from Toronto informs us that a great mass meeting of all organized and non-organized dress workers in Toronto is being called for next Monday evening, February 23, at the Toronto Labor Lyceum Hall, at which the sentiment for a general strike among the workers in the industry will be canvassed and a strike vote taken.

In addition to the local leaders and speakers, the meeting will be addressed by General Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky, who is going to Toronto to assume charge of the dress situation, and by Brother Tom Moore, of the Canadian Trade and Labor Congress.

DRESS BOARD ISSUES NEW QUARTERLY WORKING CARD

The Color of the New Quarterly Card is Green and is for the Months of January, February and March of 1931.

All Workers Must Procure This Card Without Delay. New Workers Who Come Up to Work Must Get Working Card from Locals Nos. 10, 22, 35 or 59.

In order to effect better control and to enforce the good standing of every workman in the shop, the Dressmakers' Joint Board installed a system of quarterly working cards. All workers who are employed in Union shops are required to take out a working card once in three months.

These cards are issued only to members in good standing of the Union. The new working cards for the months of January, February and March of 1931, are now ready for distribution. Every worker working in a union shop must procure this card without delay. These cards are issued either to the worker or to the chairman of the shop upon presentation of a good-standing union book.

They can be procured in any of the following offices:

Joint Board, 151 West 33rd Street
Local No. 22, 60 West 35th Street
Local No. 89, 151 West 33rd Street

The business agent of the Union will visit every shop and workers who will have not their working cards, will not be permitted to work.

QUARTERLY WORKING CARD.

ISSUED BY

JOINT BOARD

OF THE

DRESS and WAISTMAKERS' UNION

OF GREATER NEW YORK

Office and Headquarters

151 W. 35th St., New York City



Affiliated with American Federation of Labor

JAN. FEB. MAR. 1931

PHONE: CHICKERING 4-0134
This card is renewable.

Julius Hochman
General Manager
Antonio Crivello
Secretary-Treasurer

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The I. L. G. W. U.—1931

Highlights and Impressions From The Quarterly Meeting of the G. E. B.

By M. D. D.

Another quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board has come and gone.

President Schlesinger is in the chair.

He had just come to this meeting from the Catskill retreat where for nearly three months he had been seeking health and a cure for his throat. The mountain air and sun have laid a coat of tan on his features, but it is still evident that the I. L. G. W. U. chief has not recovered his full strength and vigor. After a sojourn in the hills, the air in the stuffy hotel room where the meeting is held seems disagreeable. Nevertheless, his full command of the situation, his sharp, cutting judgment of men and things are still there. There is hardly a break, hardly a dissonance in his conduct of the meeting.

National board meetings of the I. L. G. W. U. are not legislative sessions. We leave law-making exclusively to our conventions. The quarterly meetings of the Board are largely inventory-taking meetings, at which our positions are being carefully examined, and on the basis of such inventories tactics are formed and reformed and practical steps in this or that market are taken.

That's why most of the time at our Board meetings is consumed by reporting. And as these reports, by the chief executive officers and by the vice-presidents, follow each other giving graphic accounts of conditions in each section and territory where women's garments are being produced, there emerges in the end that intrinsic total of impressions which sums up for the whole Board the living status of the Union at that particular period.

It's been four months now since the G. E. B. had met in October, 1930, and during these four months a lot of water, as the phrase goes, has flown under our bridge. It was then near the Fall season in the main lines of our industry, a season far from satisfactory. And the resume of conditions at that meeting of the Board foretold very little improvement in the general depression that has gripped the entire life of the country since the fateful days of October, 1929.

"Hold fast to the lines!" was the unwritten slogan that stamped itself upon every decision of the Board last October. The best we may hope for in times of a veritable national calamity is to preserve what we have and not to attempt unnecessary risks unless absolutely imperative until a change for the better becomes noticeable. The leadership of the union had judged correctly that the active element in our organizations would have plenty to do in warding off attempts by employers everywhere to take advantage of bad times and to wreathe as work conditions gained in former, better times.

It was the only rational policy to adopt and, as a whole, it worked out successfully in practically every instance. The accounts given by the President, the General Secretary-Treasurer and by all the vice-presidents in their reports on the Union's activities in the past four months fairly bristled with testimony to the soundness of this course of action. The International indeed has succeeded in these months, despite the continued economic crisis, to hold its own practically in every garment market, and, amazing as it may sound, even to make some gains here and there.

In New York, Vice President Nagler, who is General Manager of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board, reports that we are passing through a tense, strenuous period. New York is the main centre of our organization, the backbone of our Union. The shops are beginning to make some spring work, yet the season, bad or good, is not expected to be a long one. The hand-to-mouth policy of production is still haunting this market. In addition, there is considerable unemployment, meaning that hundreds of men and women are entirely out of jobs.

The Union, nevertheless, is facing this task in a constructive manner. A call was sounded by the Joint Board through the entire industry to curb overtime and Saturday work in all shops where there is a chance for placing men at work at vacant machines, and this call is now being practically enforced by a big force of volunteer committees who are canvassing the cloak shops in every district, seeking out placements for idle workers.

On the cheery side of the New York picture is the fact, pointed out by General Secretary Dubinsky, that the membership of the cloakmakers'

unions has not diminished during 1930, though both the Joint Board and the International anticipated a loss. The recently taken census, by the newly-established Record Office in the International, discloses the extremely encouraging fact that the Cloakmakers' Union in New York City, in all its crafts, has a membership of nearly 25,000 in good standing, which is something to be happy over, indeed.

On the other side of the medal, however, there remains the still very acute financial situation resulting principally from the debt-payment burden, the yoke that is still strangulating every constructive activity in New York. Thousands of dollars still have to be paid out weekly in security refunds squandered by the Communists in 1928, bank loans have to be squared and loans made by individuals or friendly organizations have to be met on time or extended, and this burden, it seems, is not likely to be lifted for some time to come, as the general hard times obviously make faster repayments all but impossible.

Another interesting observation made by Vice President Nagler is that the so-called "industrial union," the blackleg outfit engineered by the Communists a couple of years ago, is today a dead letter in New York City as far as the cloakmakers are concerned. It has ceased even to be a factor of annoyance to us and, as signs clearly indicate, is headed straight for the realms of limbo.

A significant tendency in a number of dress shops to manufacture ensemble suits and what is generally termed as "white coats"—on the prevailing piece prices—as contrasted with similar work being made in cloak shops under week work, also was stressed in the report on conditions in the New York market. This overlapping may have been over-emphasized a good deal by cloak manufacturers complaining of "unfair competition" arising from this tendency, but that it exists and that it would be of benefit to the union as well as to the legitimate employers to investigate and ascertain its true extent is admitted on all sides.

Still another condition which has caused considerable stir and friction in New York, this time between the cloakmakers' and dressmakers' organizations, was brought up by General Secretary Dubinsky in a report that Local 22 refused to comply with a decision handed down by a special committee of the General Executive Board which had investigated the question of members of cloakmakers' locals working in dress shops and had agreed on a proposal that such workers be allowed two months in dress shops on special working cards before they would be compelled to transfer to Local 22 in the event they remain permanently in the trade. The failure of Local 22 to carry out this decision, Secretary Dubinsky charged, was an act that should not go undisciplined.

Brother Nagler also reported at length on the situation in the Brooklyn contract shops and the out-of-court settlement reached between the Brooklyn cloak contractors' association and the Alger Commission, a settlement which, in his opinion, should result in the unionization of this until now demoralized sector in the near future.

For the dressmakers' organization, Vice President Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Dress and Waist Joint Board, reports that the spring season is running along in fits and starts with little to indicate how long it might last. On the whole, it would seem that the members of the dress unions have jobs, though not all of them are working full time. Like the cloakmakers' organization, the dress unions have stood up pretty well in 1930 in retaining most of their membership despite the hard times on the one hand and the fact that the general strike in the winter months of 1930 has necessarily brought into the Union a large unsteady element which could not be expected to remain in it permanently. The paid-up membership of the Dress Joint Board, as substantiated by figures from the International Office, is above 22,000.

Brother Hochman draws at length a vivid picture of the conditions in the individual locals, of the situation of the impartial machinery in the trade, stressing from time to time the hardships encountered in dealing with the contractors' association, and the daily battles against recalcitrant employers. He touches in a few brief remarks on the reported plan of the Communist clique in the industry to plunge the trade into a general strike, and stresses the confidence of all the constructive elements in the industry that this plan, except for causing annoyance in spots, will prove as abortive

as every other disruptive venture they had embarked on in the last few years.

From the larger trades the reports turn to the smaller miscellaneous divisions in New York City. There are the white goods workers, with a struggling union fighting hard to retain its position in the negligee industry and to make progress despite hard times. There are the children's dressmakers, the embroiderers, the pleaters and tuckers—all of them in practically the same condition, using every available resource to weather the storm and to preserve existing conditions in the shops, in the firm hope that the bad times won't last forever and that the industrial horizon will soon brighten up again.

The sample makers appear and complain that their craft is being encroached upon by cloak operators who are taking away their jobs from them and that their membership, as a result of this, is steadily dwindling. Something should be done, they ask, to make it possible for them to earn a living as sample makers in the cloak shops, at least that cloak operators should not be permitted to work for lower wages than what the sample makers are entitled to under prevailing scales. Their request falls on sympathetic ears and the Board promises them relief in the early future.

The raincoat makers also appear before the Board, placing before it their local problems and the problems of their industry as a whole. The raincoat makers claim that the non-union markets are steadily gnawing away at the heart of the unionized part of the industry and that unless drastic organizing measures are taken to check this invasion, New York is bound to be affected and demoralized as well. They want the General Executive Board to help them organize Boston, Chicago and other waterproof garment centers.

The ladies' tailors, for the past five months struggling in the Fifth Avenue trenches of New York, appear and state their case. Their story is well known to the members of the Board. What is to be done? Is there any hope in carrying on the strike? Opinions differ even among the committeemen of the local. In the end it is the membership of the organization itself that has to decide on this very much important to themselves matter.

It is General Dubinsky's turn. The financial account for 1930 is being presented to the Board.

The Board listens with more than usual attention as Bro. Dubinsky in clear, trenchant tones, recites facts and figures bearing on the income and expenditures of the I. L. G. W. U. for the first year of his stewardship of the Union's finances. Figures are dry, as a rule, but behind these figures, there is arrayed the whole activity of the Union for this entire twelvemonth, behind these facts one may feel the flow of the life-blood of the women's garment workers' organization.

The thought flashes through the mind: What a huge establishment this International is even in a lean year like the present! Over a half million dollars of income in the General Office alone, in one year! Mind you, more than \$200,000, or forty per cent of the organization's income applied to paying off that unfortunate debt burden which has been weighing down the Union for years now, and this done in a year when such a feat might seem almost impossible of achievement!

Item after item is being presented in the impressive quiet that reigns in the room as Secretary Dubinsky goes on. Nearly \$135,000 was spent on organizing work during the year, despite the fact that the income was so badly affected by the hard times and by the necessity of meeting old obligations. But the International always has maintained a policy of extreme generosity to its affiliated bodies, it never would refuse to give of its last to a local in need, to any labor organization that would ask for help!

And what of the future? The meeting at once plunges into a discussion of the Union's financial situation, not alone of the International but of every joint board and subdivision. All eyes seem to turn to the President and to the General Secretary for guidance with regard to insuring the organization's normal functioning during the present critical period, never losing sight, in the meantime, of the extraordinary demands for special reserve funds which the next year might bring.

The reports switch to cities outside of New York. Chicago, through Vice-President Bialis, tells of the situation in this considerable Middlewestern market. Chicago, with the piece-work agreement which it signed a few weeks ago for the local cloak trade, has threatened from the beginning to become the storm center of the meeting. President Schlesinger, at the start, was inclined that the G. E. B. take a very drastic attitude towards Vice-President Bialis in refusing him a seat at the

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::: The I. L. G. W. U.—1931 :::

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Board meeting for the insubordinate action of his organization which violated so flagrantly the policy of week-work of the International in the Chicago market. Subsequently, Pres. Schlesinger withdrew his motion, and the Board passed a resolution repudiating the Chicago agreement and ordering the administration of the Chicago Joint Board to account for its action.

Vice-President Bialis further gives an account of the dress situation in Chicago, of the ceaseless efforts of the local Joint Board to carry on organizing activity in the large dress trade. The Chicago dress trade, of course, is no unknown quantity to the International, which had fought there many a protracted struggle with varying degrees of success and failure. The Chicago dressmakers, however, though defeated at times are never vanquished, and today, like in former years, they are clamoring for action, for further unionizing of the non-union shops and ask for the aid of the International in this work.

Cleveland, through Vice-President Kreindler, veteran secretary of the local organization, reports about the recently concluded annual agreement, of the changes made therein, of their local needs, problems, and hopes. Toledo, too, a sort of an adjunct of the Cleveland organization, is clamoring for help. In that small though active cloak town there is hope for a good organization, and they believe they could accomplish it if they could only get aid from the parent body.

From Philadelphia Vice-President Reisberg reports normal activity in the cloakmakers' organization, several settlements with firms which for a time had turned to jobbing and now have again become manufacturers. The outlook for the season in Philadelphia is no brighter than anywhere else, nevertheless the local membership is not in the least discouraged and is carrying on to the best of its ability. In the Philadelphia dress trade, which for years has been the chief battlefield of the International in that city, things have changed but little since last October. The dressmakers' local is doing its utmost to increase its strength, though it is, naturally, like all other trade unions, hampered by a shortage of financial means. The members realize that only a general organizing movement could produce big results, but they also know that it would be out of the question for the present for the International to undertake a costly drive in their city. It is a siege, or rather a question of watchful and patient waiting, and the Philadelphia dressmakers are loyal enough union members to have faith in their International and together with other International members to weather the storm as best as possible.

Boston reports through Vice-President Kramer, now replacing Bro. Feinberg as manager of the Joint Board. There is an awakening of union interest in the local industry, and Bro. Kramer believes that it is a favorable time for wide organization drives in both the cloak and the dress trades. Even the raincoat industry, for a time disrupted, is showing signs of revival, and the workers are asking to be reinstated as an International local. Baltimore, in a written report by Bro. Saul Metz, tells of a compact little organization in the local cloak, such as we have not had there for years. Given means, Bro. Metz believes, a great deal could be accomplished in that city not only in the cloak trade but in the other ladies' garment shops.

The scene shifts to Canada.

Vice-President Amdur reports. Montreal has at last achieved a union in the cloak trade, no doubt, but the local organization is still suffering from the old effects, there is still active there the spirit of clique formation, of selfish friction-raising. Nevertheless, the cloakmakers' organization in Montreal, it is now admitted even by the most pessimistic, has now come to stay and it is exercising a positive influence on the local trade. The latter viewpoint is being substantiated in a written report to the Board by Vice-President Feinberg who has recently succeeded Bro. Amdur.

Two reports from Toronto—one orally by Vice-President Reisberg who recently visited Toronto—and another, in writing, by Bro. Bernard Shane, International representative and Joint Board manager in that city. The cloakmakers have renewed their agreement recently in Toronto adding a few improvements to the contract. The center of attention in that city, however, is the amazing campaign carried on among the dressmakers, and its very fine results. Our readers, of course, know enough of the details of this drive from prior issues

of "Justice." The question presented to the Board is—Shall the International come now to the assistance of the awakened dressmakers of Toronto and lead a strike if such a strike finally becomes a necessity?

Vice-President Kirzner, who has recently spent a few weeks in Winnipeg gives an account of his investigation of cloak and dress shops in that far Northern city. Under the circumstances, his conclusion is, that the International stay away from that place for the time being. The local market is not large enough to warrant a costly drive which, even if it proves favorable, will not square up with the required expense and effort.

From St. Louis, a small cloak city, from the Pacific Coast come written reports. The latter, covered in an extensive communication by Vice-President Breslau, is especially interesting. Breslau has recently visited Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and Vancouver to investigate the local women's garment industry on the Western Coast, and reports that he found quite a large cloak and dress trade in Portland, a similar industry in Seattle, and a number of shops in Vancouver. The Portland and Seattle markets are favorable for organizing work, if an active campaign should be carried on there. Both cities are good union centers, and the local labor movement could be relied upon to help in the campaign.

In Los Angeles, the strike in the cloak shops begun last September has been won to a large extent, though there are still some shops out. In San Francisco we have a small local, which could be developed as we have there quite an active union group.

Further communications: A group of cloakmakers and dressmakers want to be organized in El Paso, Texas; a committee from a dress factory in Collinsville, Ill., asks help to be organized; from St. Paul, Minn., there is a request by workers in the local dress shops for organization. And so on and so forth, pleas, requests, demands from everywhere, calling for help, asking aid.

Committees, from locals in New York and out of town, committees representing individual appeals and complaints, come and present their cases and go in quick succession. Each committee reflects a phase, big or small of our organizational life, each turns to the Board, as the executive arm of the International, for guidance, assistance, or the righting of a wrong, real or fanciful.

The last two days of the meeting are devoted to action—action on the reports and the practical sug-

gestions contained in them, action on the multitude of requests presented to the Board. Under the expert guidance of President Schlesinger, after thorough, well-directed debate, decision after decision is reached without waste of time. The picture of the organization, the result of slow, cumulative reporting, is before the eyes of the Board. The members of the Board know how, with the means on hand, they can best meet the demands put upon the Union. And in this spirit they act.

But that is already "news." And for news we should like to refer the readers to the news pages of this issue of "Justice" and of succeeding numbers.

Doings Among the Phila. Cloakmakers

By SIMON DAVIDSON, Secretary
Philadelphia Cloak Joint Board

Installation of New Boards

Last Saturday, February 14, we had here installations of our new Joint Board and of our local executives and local officers. The ceremony of induction was performed by our veteran business agent, Bro. M. Damsky. Bro. B. Karp, of Local 71, Pressers, was elected chairman of the Joint Board, while Bro. S. Davidson, of Local 53, Cutters, was re-elected secretary.

Former chairman of the Joint Board, M. Levin, in his farewell talk declared that his main objective while in office had been to maintain harmony among the delegates. Local patriotism or local discrimination, he pointed out, are unhealthy things for a central labor body. All crafts within it must be treated on an equal basis. The meeting later voted to make Bro. Levin an honorary member of the Board.

"Bro. Karp, the new chairman, declared that he has no special platform of his own, though he would very much like to bring back a larger cloak industry to Philadelphia. Seventeen years ago, he reminded the delegates, he also was chairman of the Philadelphia Joint Board, but that, of course, was a younger period for all of us. Those were the days when we had laid the foundation for a union in the Philadelphia cloak trade. 'We can bring back the enthusiasm of those days,' he continued, 'if we but make up our minds to work loyally and sincerely for the chief aims of our organization. Above all, it must be the unquestioned loyalty and the willingness to do something, and if necessary, to bring sacrifices when called upon.'

"Among the other speakers at the meeting were George ublin, S. Rudin, Becky Stein, Sarah Greenberg, H. Kaplan, H. Poleky, B. Israel, Sam Alter, and B. Baratz. All urged unity of action and the urgency of a united front against the employers. The secretary also reviewed the work of the Joint Board for the past year and dwelt on the necessity for doing something for our unemployed."

Knit Garment Workers Ready To Be Organized

General Office Will Investigate Availability of Granting Charter in Expanding New Trade

Vice-President Nagler brought up at the last meeting of the G. E. B. the question of organization in the fast-growing knit ensemble and coat trade, a comparatively new industry which is already engaging thousands of workers in New York, Brooklyn, and other sections of Greater New York.

Brother Nagler stressed the need of organization in this rapidly developing women's garment trade, where wages are lower than in any of even the lowliest trades of our industry and the hours are the longest. He pointed out that in the majority of these knit garment shops men and women are working 50 and 52 hours and that wages for women seldom exceed \$15 a week. From 1,500 to 2,000 workers, in his belief, could be enrolled in a local union without any particular effort.

The General Office was accordingly instructed to look carefully into this matter and to investigate the possibility of organizing the industry. The question of chartering a local in this trade was also left to the International leaders.

INSURE YOUR HOME

In an Insurance Society, which for more than 58 years has shown by deeds that its chief aim is to protect the interests of its members. There are no stockholders here; the members are the owners. The Workmen's Furniture Fire Insurance Society is one of the oldest, most reliable and cheapest Fire Insurance organizations in the country. It has now 50 Branches from Coast to Coast and over 56,000 members.

Established 1872
Under the supervision of the Insurance Department of the State of New York
An annual assessment of only 10 cents for every \$100 if insurance is required to cover all expenses. The maximum insurance issued on one household is \$3,000.00. A deposit of \$1.00 for every \$100 insurance is required from all applicants, such deposit being returned in full in case of withdrawal from the Society.

Assets \$900,000.00
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In This Corner

By M. D. DANISH

THE DANVILLE STRIKE might have been won through adequate and sustained financial support by organized workers and strike sympathizers the country over. A revival in industry also might have forced the hard-boiled Virginia cotton mill owners to come to terms with the strikers. Regular money support that could keep at least body and soul together might have held the strikers out as long as it would have been required to win the conflict.

Neither happened. So when the strike failed, one of the finest efforts of Southern labor men to emancipate themselves from tentacles of fake company unionism failed with it. Voices will be heard, we are certain, in condemnation of the local strike leadership because it had deliberately dragged out the strike until it became hopeless. We fail to concur in this. Locally, the strike in Danville appears to have been conducted excellently. It was lost through the callousness of the entire labor movement. The Danville strike needed a thousand dollars a day to keep it going. And the four million American unionists could not or would not provide this niggardly sum despite the fact that all during the duration of the Danville conflict there had not appeared another labor conflict on the industrial horizon to divert interest from it.

The loss of the Danville strike will be interpreted as a verdict of weakness of our trade union movement. Enough of the strikers returning with bloody and bowed heads will lose their former jobs or be discriminated against by the triumphant bosses. The loss in Danville may serve to discourage, at least while the industrial crisis lasts, other organizing activity in the Southern textile field. The greater is the pity.

IF ANY EVIDENCE WERE required to prove that the projected Communist "strike" in the New York dress shops is a deliberate fraud, the official abandonment by the Communist board of strategy, as announced in their press the other day, of the chief slogans of the "strike," should supply convincing testimony.

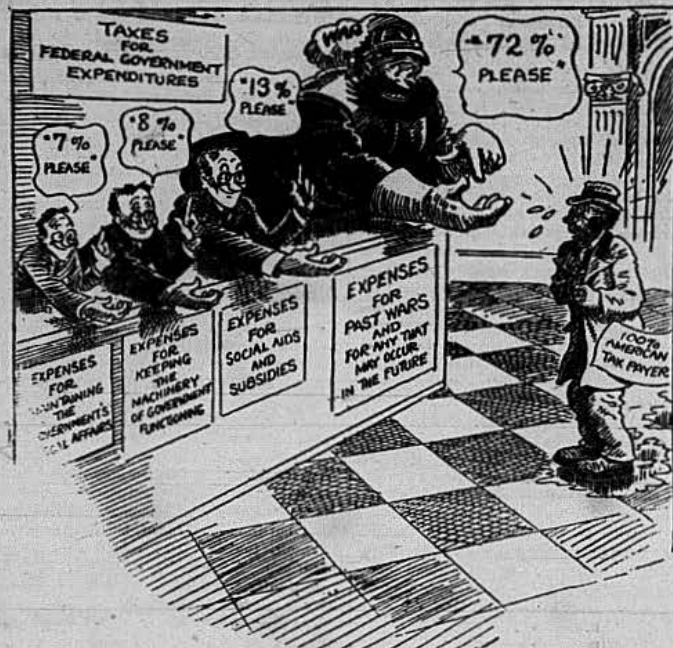
The discarded slogans were the "seven-hour day" and "week-work." Ever since the bright idea of a "strike" for the dress industry was born in the inner Communist councils it was these two "battle cries" that had been flaunted by them as the fore and aft of the adventure. The seven-hour day and week-work were to serve as bait to pull the workers out of the dress shops. Of course, no one in his or her right senses has ever suspected that the Communists could get anywhere with their seductive slogans save for creating some confusion in some shops for a short time.

With the giving up of these two chief "industrial" demands, all the Communists have left now in the form of window-dressing to account for their dress "strike" is the feeble bark of "unionizing" the industry. Well, as "unionizers" of industry the Communists, certainly, have gained for themselves such a marvelous reputation among women's garment workers that the dressmakers can do no less than to leave them serenely alone.

FOR A WHILE THE GENTLEMEN in Washington who had ordered a court-martial for General Butler looked very much like the Cossack in the Russian story who, after having caught the bear by his tail, kept on wondering how to let go of the pesky animal without getting himself in a tight corner. As the Cossack appears to have survived to tell the tale, it would seem that the Russian bear was no less tractable than the ferocious Marine who, in the end, decided to make up and kiss.

One thing this muzzling of Butler proves beyond cavil: The Hoover counsellors have a marvelous knack, bordering on positive genius, for doing the most unpopular things in and out of season. It is quite apparent by this time that an overwhelming majority of adult Americans believe that Butler told a true story concerning Mussolini, and will keep on believing it despite the fact that Butler, for the sake of saving someone's face, did soft-pedal his "undiplomatic" remark about the Duce and thereby got off with just a reprimand.

Whatever the outcome, it has hurt Butler's standing very little in the eye of America. There was something real decent about a ranking soldier of the type of Butler getting up and calling Mussolini a "mad



How Your Tax Dollar Is Spent

dog of war." Millions of people who had never given this matter a thought are now likely to believe it. That is probably the reason why the Duce's emissaries in America had raised such a squawk about it. And this may have also been the reason why they were glad to help smothering the court-martial and call it quits.

IT IS DOLLARS TO DOUGHNUTS that the investigation of New York City voted by the New York Assembly two weeks ago will never come to pass. The professional Republican politicians in the State Senate will see to it that it is defeated.

The reason for this is pretty much on the surface. The professional Republican politician is no more enthusiastic for corruption exposure than his Democratic colleague. He will vote occasionally for such a "fishing expedition," as it is customarily designated, if he sees great benefit and no harm to his own clique in it. And there seems to be solid ground for suspicion that a thoroughgoing investigation of the Tammany regime in New York might disclose a terrible stench emanating from the so-called Republican machine in New York as well.

All the more is the pity and the shame. The government of New York City probably has not been as steeped in graft and corruption since the days of the Tweed ring as it is today. The Seabury hearings on the magistrates' courts going on now are revealing a horrible state of corruption, boodle and incompetence. A genuine, honestly-meant and carried out investigation of every department of the city administration would be a great educational enterprise that would shock not only the citizens of the America's greatest metropolis but the whole country.

But that is obviously not a task for the Republican politicians. In spirit, practice and "principle" the Republican leaders are brothers under the skin of their Democratic colleagues. What Tammany is to New York, the Republican machines are to the populations of Chicago and Philadelphia. They consider muckraking a dangerous and double-edged sword. And if they only have a chance they will not fail to rally to the aid of their Democratic "enemies" and nip the investigation in the bud.

STANDARD OIL OF NEW YORK, which shuns trade unions like small-pox, announces an old-age pension and disability insurance plan for its 45,000 workers.

The Father of Trusts enjoys no reputation as a public-benefactor. Whatever it does it usually tainted heavily with self-interest rarely of the enlightened variety. A Standard Oil decision to spend ten million dollars annually for a workers' insurance scheme is therefore a departure that carries a lot of meaning.

As we see it, a goodly part of the premium that the Standard Oil Company is going to pay to the Metropolitan Insurance Company for administering its old-age plan, it could lightheartedly write down as insurance against trade unionism in its plants. The stronger the hold it gets on the men in the refineries and oil fields, the lesser is the risk that they might be persuaded to stray off into labor organizations. Secondly, neither Standard Oil, nor the great insurance combinations, we take it, are friendly to old-age pension legislation of any kind. They consider it much better business all around to have such schemes promoted privately and administered under the protective eye and wing of the companies themselves.

The Standard Oil example will probably be soon followed by other great aggregations of industrial capital, particularly such as have consistently opposed labor organizations in their plants and mills. Next in order will follow unemployment insurance and reserve funds, most likely along the lines of the General Electric plan. There is hardly a doubt that Big Business will leave anything undone to swing the fast growing sentiment in favor of unemployment insurance into the channels of company directed and company controlled schemes.

Cloak Making in Dress Shops To Be Fully Investigated

Conference of Union and Associations' Representatives To Be Called For This Purpose Soon

The claims by various factors in the cloak and dress industry that a considerable amount of "white costs" are being manufactured in dress shops under piece-work conditions is planned to be made the subject of a searching investigation, if a conference between the Union and the various associations in the dress industry can agree on a method of procedure for carrying it out.

The vote of the G. E. B. on this matter, brought up by Vice-President Julius Hochman, is to the effect that General Secretary Dubinsky be "instructed to summon such a conference of the Union and the representatives of the dress associations" for this purpose.

In discussing this matter at the meeting of the G. E. B., Vice-President Hochman pointed out, however, that the cloak manufacturers who are raising the loudest cries concerning this matter are probably prompted more by a desire to propagandize piece-work in the cloak shops than by any other motive.

Division of Work in French Shops

By DAVID MIKOL
(Special Paris Correspondence to "Justice")

THE International economic crisis so far is only partly felt in France and not to any alarming degree.

The French employing class does not employ a harsh, ruthless technique in dealing with employment of workers. The French employers do not "fire" their men without regard to consequences in times of "slack." The large automobile factories—Renault and Citroën for instance—each has laid off about 1,000 workers. All of these, however, are foreign or imported workers who are hired with the express provision that in the event of dull times they may be discharged to make room for native workers. But even these "foreign" workers may manage to make their employment a great deal more secure by joining a trade union, (syndicat) in which case they become entitled to the protection of the organization and share equally in whatever work there is to be had together with the native French workers. Today, the workers in the above-mentioned automobile shops work 40 hours a week instead of the regular 48, and, should conditions not improve, it is quite likely that the work-week would be reduced further to 35 or 30 hours—without additional lay-offs of men. Such is the French way of dealing with the present industrial crisis.

Garment Shops on Part Time

It is hard, at any time, to get accurate statistics of unemployment in France. The State employment agencies report that the demand for jobs exceeds three times the present supply, and that State assistance to idle workers in December has doubled since last year with even worse prospects for January. I can, however, write with more knowledge of conditions in the needle trades. Most of the high-class garment making establishments in Paris are working on part time. The rule of dividing all available work on an equal basis between workers is, however, rigidly adhered to. The men and women in these shops usually work in turns of two weeks each, until the busy season will have set in again. The prospects for this busy season, at present are, however, uncertain, since these fashionable shops depend on their business for foreign trade—custom or exportations—and so long as the economic crisis continues in the United States one cannot tell with any degree of certainty when the American buyers of Paris clothes or Paris samples will again invade Paris and revive the "busy" season in the local establishments.

The same can be said for the very lucrative South American trade—wholesale and retail—which is also affecting work in the high grade Paris dress-making establishments. In the South American republic conditions are just as unsettled, and will probably continue to be so for a time to come. The actual number of persons affected by this stagnation is hard to estimate for the reason that 75 per cent of the work in these fashionable establishments is made up in the homes and not in the work-shops, and our firms are not in the least eager to supply figures of their unemployed home workers.

In the ready-to-wear trade, for men and women, the shops are also working on part time, three or four days a week. In all shops, however, the policy agreed upon between the workers and the firms is not to discharge workers but to divide the work equally. The best example of this policy is offered by the well-organized garment making market in Roubaix, in the North of France, the strongest center of organized labor in the garment trade in this country. While the Roubaix syndicat with a membership of 1,200 has a collective agreement with the employers, it has no closed shop, yet the principle of the closed shop is in practice being carried out in industry as no worker can be engaged unless he or she presents a union book or a permit from the syndicat.

In Roubaix all the workers in the garment shops have been working 35 hours a week since the beginning of December instead of the regular 48 hours, and even if it should become necessary further to reduce the work hours it is certain that no one will be "fired." Of course, workers may leave their shops if they are dissatisfied with lessened earnings and seek other occupations, in which event they lose their jobs. It is interesting to observe that this principle of equal division of labor is adhered to in the non-union shops as well.

Only a Part Remedy

This system of part-time work will, it is hoped, save the French workers from the wretchedness and was instructed not to send any work outside before

With the N. Y. Cloak & Skirt Joint Board

By MORRIS J. ASHBER, Secretary-Treasurer

A regular meeting of the Joint Board Cloak, Suit, Skirt & Reefer Makers' Union was held Wednesday, February 4, 1931, 8 P. M., at the International Auditorium, 3 West 16th Street. Chairman, Philip Ansel.

The Board of Directors submits the following report:

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held Monday, February 2, 1931, 6 P. M., at the office of the International, 3 West 16th Street. Chairman, Ruben Zuckerman.

Managers' Reports:

Brother Lefkowitz, Manager of the Jobbers' Department, reports about the activities of his department, during the past week, and states that besides the regular routine, he had three complicated cases, which were referred to the Impartial Chairman. The cases are as follows:

Siegel Bros.—This firm opened an experimental shop, last season, with the understanding that same would either be increased to a normal 14-machine shop by January 1, 1931, in accordance with the provisions of our collective agreement or be disbanded. During the month of December, the firm promised to carry out the arrangement, but later backed out. As a result, the case was referred to the Impartial Chairman.

A similar situation occurred in the case of the Jobbers, Kessler & Schwartz.

The third case is that of Wolf & Sheinberg. When a reorganization took place in this shop, last season, the firm agreed when employing additional workers to give reference to those who dropped out as a result of the reorganization. Now the firm refused to carry out its promise and the case was referred to the Impartial Chairman.

Upon motion, Brother Lefkowitz's report is approved.

General Manager's Report:

Brother Nagler reports that the Impartial Chairman, in accordance with our request, arranged a conference between the Union, Industrial Council and the American Association for the purpose of taking up the question of abolishing overtime and Saturday work in shops where there is room for more workers, as a means of relieving our unemployment situation.

In order that our shop chairmen may be posted on the results of the conference and be given the necessary instructions, in connection therewith, a Shop Chairmen's meeting of all Industrial Council shops was arranged for Wednesday night, February 4, right after work. The shop chairmen of the American shops will be informed about the results of the conference by the business agents.

Instructions were also given to all business agents to make a thorough control of all their shops for the purpose of ascertaining the exact number of workers employed and the vacant space available for more workers. These reports will be turned in by Wednesday, February 4, after which an effort will be made to have all vacant places filled by additional workers.

Brother Nagler further reports that a three-party conference between the Union, American Association and the Brooklyn Contractors' Association was arranged for Tuesday night at the Impartial Chairman's office, as per advice of our attorney, Morris Hillquit. The purpose of this conference is to reach an understanding regarding the activities which we are about to start in the Brooklyn territory.

He states also that the committee of five Local Managers, appointed by the Joint Board to find a suitable candidate to take charge of the Brooklyn offices, met Friday and today and went over the situation in detail.

Brother Nagler then suggested the appointment of Brother Benjamin Kanpan, as the person he considers fully capable of handling the Brooklyn territory. His suggestion met with the unanimous approval of the Committee and they all promised to fully cooperate with Brother Kaplan in order to make his task easier.

misery of hard times which is affecting the workers, for instance, in the United States. Of course, division of work is only a part remedy and offers no solution to the problem of unemployment resulting from the economic crisis. The bigger question of adapting production to the real needs of the country will have to be faced and new economic arrangements will have to be evolved. For the moment, however, this characteristic of the French employer, expressed in a more humanitarian attitude towards his workers than, for instance, the make-money-at-any-cost attitude of the American or English employer, may save our workers here from bread-lines and from the other typical blessings of present-day American civilization.

Leader of "Bund" Welcomed

The Chairman then announces the presence of Comrade Noah, the leader of the "Bund," the Central Union of the Jewish organized workers of Poland, who was invited by the Joint Board to address our meeting. He then introduces Comrade Noah, who is received with thunderous applause.

Comrade Noah thanks the delegates for the invitation, as well as for their cordial reception. He states that he already had the honor to address our Joint Board while visiting the United States six years ago. He then found us in the midst of the internal fight, that was carried on within our ranks and from which we emerged victorious.

He then reviews the general situation in Poland, the political as well as the economical. He cites a few interesting and highly illuminating facts concerning Fascism, which is gradually taking root in the political life of the Polish nation. He relates a few characteristic instances how public gatherings are being suppressed, labor publications confiscated and many other oppressions from which the organized workers are suffering in Poland. In addition to that, the Jewish workers are barred from many basic industries, which makes their lot even worse and more unbearable.

The effectiveness of a crisis is not felt until one is actually confronted with it. The same is true about Fascism. In Poland, the crisis and Fascism came together. To get a clear vision of what disaster these twins have brought upon Poland, as a whole, and the workers of Poland, in particular, one has to be there and see things for himself.

In conclusion, Comrade Noah gives a brief illustration of what disaster Fascism has brought upon the workers of Poland and states:

"Fascism—the weapon with which capital is fighting the proletarians—is like a cancer; it has the tendency of spreading from one land to another, and it may extend into America as well. It is, therefore, the duty of the workers of every land to help combat Fascism in every land. I hope, therefore, that the Joint Board will respond warmly to our appeal for aid."

Comrade Noah's interesting and hearty address is received enthusiastically with applause.

Comrade J. Baskin, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Workmen's Circle, who accompanied Comrade Noah, is then introduced. He delivers a brief address in which he states that the Workmen's Circle is keenly interested in the success of Comrade Noah's mission and will do its share towards making his efforts successful.

Delegate Zuckerman moves that the Joint Board pledges itself to raise a fund of \$500 for the relief of the "Bund." The motion is carried unanimously. The meeting is then adjourned.

DRESSMAKERS

Members Local 22, I. L. G. W. U.

NOMINATIONS

For all paid and unpaid officers of the Union, will take place at a
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, February 26

right after work, at

BRYANT HALL

6th Avenue, Cor. 42nd Street

The complete order of business is as follows:

1. Nominations and elections of an Objection and Election Committee.
2. First and last nominations for all paid and unpaid officers, including local manager, Executive Board, Relief Committee, Joint Board General Manager, and Business Agents.
3. Report by brother Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Joint Board.

All our members are requested to attend this highly important meeting. Bring your membership card.

Executive Board, Dressmakers

Union, Local 22, I. L. G. W. U.

CHARLES MARGOLIS,

Chairman.

JOSEPH SPIELMAN,

Secretary.

2 WEEKS IN LOCAL 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER.

(Continued from page 3)

might be some justification for their demand, but failing to receive such positive assurance, Local 10 will not jeopardize the livelihood of these cutters to satisfy the whims of some dress manufacturers who do not seem to have any conception of the economic structure of the dress industry.

It became very evident that the arguments of the representatives of Local 10 had an effect, as by the end of the conference some of the representatives of the Dress Manufacturers' Association admitted that the Union's contention was sound.

Controller Placed in Brooklyn

The long protracted conflict between the Brooklyn Contractors' Association and the American Association which lasted for over nine months, has finally been settled and culminated in the reinstatement of the Brooklyn group into the American Association, the parent body.

The issues in dispute between the two associations, were reported on various occasions. Suffice it to say that ever since the injunction action had been started by the Brooklyn Contractors' Association the Brooklyn market became completely non-union.

During the period of the injunction the Union was in no position to instruct members of the Merchants' Association to stop sending work to Brooklyn, as such action might have involved the Union in contempt of court. The Brooklyn contractors have taken advantage of the situation and continued to reduce standards in a most rampant manner. Now that the Brooklyn situation is cleared up the Union is confronted with the problem of re-organizing shops in that territory.

At the conference held last Tuesday, February 3, which was called by the Impartial Chairman, Raymond V. Ingersoll, at which both the American Association and the Brooklyn Contractors Association were present, a plan of procedure for re-organizing the Brooklyn shops was formulated with the result that the Cloak Joint Board at the last meeting of its Board of Directors, assigned Brother Benjamin Kaplan of Local No. 1 to supervise the Brooklyn territory, which also includes Bensonhurst and Brownsville. Brother Kaplan will have a staff of about ten business agents to work with him.

Local 10 was also affected by the situation in Brooklyn. Upon a check-up of conditions with regard to employers doing their own cutting, we found that there are many sub-manufacturers who moved to Brooklyn in the last few months and who are taking up piece goods. Brother Jack Grossman, one of the International organizers, and a member of Local 10, has thereupon been appointed by the Executive Board to take charge of that territory for Local 10. It is expected that cutters will be placed to work in these Brooklyn shops.

Miscellaneous Branch Progresses

As a result of the organization campaign conducted last season in the miscellaneous trades, especially in the underwear market, the Miscellaneous Branch now has a few hundred members. The last meetings of the Miscellaneous Branch showed an ardent desire and interest on the part of these members in the general affairs of Local 10.

The last meeting, in particular, although there was nothing of great importance to be taken up, had a very large attendance. After the report made by the Manager, a discussion ensued in which quite a few members participated. The question of organizing and promoting athletic activities also came up at a suggestion by Manager Perlmutter, as almost 90 per cent of the members of the Miscellaneous Branch are of American birth and it would therefore be quite appropriate for these to keep up

such sport activities as are recognized as essential in American life. Brother Joseph Ninfo, the son of Salvatore Ninfo, First Vice-President of the International, who is quite a sports adept, has volunteered his services to instruct and coach such members as might desire to join such activities.

At the next meeting of the Miscellaneous Branch, Brother Ninfo, Jr., will give his opinion of what should be done in this direction.

Office Conducting Investigation in Shops for Available Space

Within the last few weeks the office has been busy in calling shop meetings for the purpose of ascertaining existing conditions with regard to available space where cutters could be placed to work.

In accordance with the sentiment expressed at various meetings, as well as with the decision made by the Executive Board, cutters will not be permitted to work overtime unless we are convinced that there is no available space for more cutters.

Another phase in connection with this matter is that of Saturday work. Although the Cloak and Dress agreements provide for Saturday work during certain periods of the season, the office has nevertheless, sent out control committees during the last few Saturdays, and wherever it was learned that there was room for more cutters, the cutters who were found working were stopped off. Among them were the shops of the Classy Cloak, Samuel Rudin & Bros., and many others. We are at this time again warning the cutters against working overtime or Saturday unless such permission is granted by the office.

In addition to this, investigations and shop meetings reveal that in some cases employers are attempting to exact reductions of wages from cutters. Among them are the shops of Jacob Propos, Siegel & Alenkov, Kupfer & Schlossberg, and others. The office, upon learning these facts, immediately took the matter up with the employers and restored the old wages.

Shops Added to the Union List

As a result of the organization work now conducted by the Cloak and Dress Joint Boards, many shops are being unionized and added to the Union's roster. As to Local 10, proper, organization work is now being conducted against non-union cutting departments.

The following are in the process of being organized:

The Clubhouse Dress is a jobber operating a cutting department and is employing about fifteen cut-

ters. The local was forced to wage a bitter fight against this shop. Every morning, noon and night this firm was being guarded by police and private guards. Brother Oretsky, however, is now completing negotiations for a settlement, and before the end of the week about twenty-five cutters are expected to join the Local and to work under union conditions.

The firm of Clifford & Goldberg employs seven cutters and operates a factory as well. Upon stopping off the cutters the rest of the workers joined in, and in their case, too, negotiations for an agreement for the entire factory are being completed.

Lady Rejane locked out its workers some two months ago, and the Union has been waging a strike against that firm for some time. Thanks to consistent and determined picketing this shop is also on the verge of signing up with the Union.

Cutter's Branch of the Workmen's Circle

On previous occasions it was reported that a branch of the Workmen's Circle was organized about a year ago. Since then this Branch has been making some tremendous progress.

Cutters who are members of other branches of the Workmen's Circle are now advised to transfer to the Cutters' Branch, where the benefits not only are the same but in some cases much greater. This branch of the cutters is now fully organized and it will be to your advantage to transfer to this branch as soon as possible. If you are not a member of any other branch, join immediately. For information regarding the Cutters' Branch of the Workmen's Circle, call at the office of Local 10, 109 West 38th Street.

1931 Ball Committee

The following is a list of the 1931 Ball Committee:

Joel Abramowitz	Max Bloom
Philip Ansel	Joe Ades
Jacob Kops	William Friedman
Louis Pankin	Victor Newfield
Harry Zaslowsky	Philip Oretsky
Nathan Saperstein	Morris Aloviss
Louis Diamond	Max Goldenberg
Abe Reiss	Arthur Weinstein
Max L. Gordon	Harry Reichel
Meyer Skluth	David Dubinsky
Harris Hacken	Elias Bass
Albert Wright	Chas. Beaver
Maurice W. Jacobs	Abe Cohen
Max Stoller	Chas. Stein, No. 1
Benjamin Evry	Sam Besser
Morris Feller	Sam Martin
Meyer Friedman	Morris Straus
Fred Ratner	Milton Civin
Morris Wolinsky	Louis Gilbert
Eddie Krieger	Louis Stolberg
Jacob White	Samuel Linder
Isidore Nagler	Irving Horowitz
Samuel Perlmutter	Morris Levine
Louis Forer	Philip Wechsler
Sam Greenberg	Harry Friedman

Vice Pres. Philip Kramer New Boston Union Manager

Takes Place of Feinberg.—To Look Into Local Raincoat Situation

Vice-President Philip Kramer of Boston was approved by the G. E. B. as manager for the Boston Joint Board, in conformity with a request made by this organization.

Kramer's filling of this post, it is expected, will please the Boston cloakmakers and dressmakers who have been recently clamoring for a manager from their own ranks.

Vice-President Kramer was also instructed by the G. E. B. to look into the Boston raincoat situation with regard to reviving the old waterproof garment workers' charter and to convey all information concerning same to the General Office.

ATTENTION CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10

In view of the fact that Washington's Birthday falls on Sunday, and is celebrated on Monday, February 23, 1931, the next regular and special meeting of the general membership will take place on

Monday, March 9, 1931

at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Pl.,
at 7:30 P. M. Sharp.

THE Workmen's Circle The Largest Radical Working- men's Fraternal Order in Existence

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Sick benefit, 15 weeks per year, at \$8, \$18, \$23 and \$28 per week. Many branches pay additional benefit from \$3 to \$5 per week. Consumption benefit \$400 and \$600 or nine months in our own sanatorium, located in the most beautiful region of the Catskill Mountains—besides the regular weekly benefit.

For Information, Apply to
The Workmen's Circle
175 E. Broadway, New York City
TELEPHONE ORCHARD 6009

Editorial Page of JUSTICE

THE INTENSIVE DRIVE against overtime and Saturday work in the cloak and dress shops has a special significance this season.

This campaign, carried on on an unprecedented scale with a committee of 500 volunteers, has assumed the proportions of a real crusade on behalf of the unemployed men and women in our trades.

"Place as many workers on jobs as the maximum capacity of the shops will allow before a minute of overtime is permitted!" is the slogan sounded by the leaders of both Joint Boards. Practically, it amounts to a division of work in time of emergency to give a share of it to every worker who depends on the short season in the cloak and dress trades to eke out the bare necessities of a living for many months to come. Certainly, in a time like the present there is not a shred of excuse to permit jobless men and women to go hungry while there is an opportunity to put them to work, be it for even a short time.

It is comparatively easy to talk about fraternity and brotherliness, about self-help and readiness to give our fellow workers a helping hand in normal times when jobs are not wanting. But it is in emergency days like those we are living through now that this spirit of genuine fraternity is called upon for a crucial test. And the fervent earnestness with which the Joint Boards in New York have undertaken to curb overtime and Saturday work in order to provide work for our unemployed and the eagerness with which all locals without exception have sent forth volunteers to help make this drive a practical success, are acts of which our Union and its members should be justly proud. Unfortunately, our organization has no relief funds with which to meet unemployment emergencies. The terrible burden that we have had to shoulder in New York in the past few years—the repayment of security monies running into hundreds of thousands of dollars which the thieving Communist band had squandered in the debacle of 1926—has made it impossible for our Union to save for such an emergency like this. The only actual relief, therefore, which we can give to our jobless is to make every human effort to place them at work wherever a vacancy can be created.

That this drive will yield substantial results seems to be a foregone conclusion. It may be reasonably expected, too, that the more enlightened element among our employers is getting to realize that overtime work in their shops while hundreds if not thousands of men are idle is a blot on the industry and an act of sheer inhumanity. At the recent conference summoned by Impartial Chairman Ingersoll on the initiative of the Cloak Joint Board to consider cooperative efforts to alleviate unemployment, the representatives of the cloak manufacturers' associations present appears to have concurred in the Union's stand that the industry must make a concerted effort to create jobs for the idle cloakmakers; and have made promises in this direction.

Essentially, however, it is our own task, our own duty. And while we may count, to some degree, on the cooperation of some of the more socially-minded employers, we must place our chief reliance in this effort on our own shock troops: our volunteers and shop controllers. No matter how we view this drive, its effects are bound to produce not only immediate relief for many of our workers but it should prove of lasting good to the organization.

PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT item on the G. E. B. agenda, at the quarterly meeting which came to a close early this week, was the survey of conditions in all markets presented in the form of reports by the chief officers of the Union.

The G. E. B. Meeting

Philadelphia, Boston, Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, Cleveland, Baltimore, the Pacific Coast cities, and last but not least—New York, each of them passing through a cycle of experience of its own, each of them weathering the present industrial storm in its own way. And only

through taking stock of the situations in these various markets is the leadership of the Union in a position to build up a composite picture of the general map of our industry and best to prepare the organization to serve as an instrument for the preservation of the working and living standards of the women's garment workers everywhere.

There was a lot of other serious business before the Board. We are still in the throes of an industrial slump, the end of which is not in sight yet. The prolonged crisis has affected the working population of the entire country not only in the sense of material want but it has also shocked its nerve, its morale. Never within the memory of the present generation has this feeling of insecurity, of worry over tomorrow's bread and lodging been so deadly, so devastating as it is today. There is not a labor organization in the country which does not feel the clamp of the hard times. There is not a trade union through the width and breadth of our land that is not confronted with the problem of severe unemployment in its own ranks, an emergency which they are attempting to relieve, in a greater or lesser measure, either from their treasuries or by division of labor wherever feasible.

Our Union, naturally, has suffered from the industrial breakdown no less than the other trade unions. Moreover, the women's garment industry being highly seasonal, our workers are facing an even greater unsteadiness of employment and more aggravated insecurity of existence than workers in a great many other trades. Under

such circumstances even the routine work of safeguarding day in and day out the work-standards in the shops becomes a herculean task requiring a maximum of vigilant attention. Under such conditions it is logical to expect that our employers might be tempted to take advantage of abnormal conditions to attack some of the most cherished gains and work regulations we had won in former years.

Without the slightest taint of boasting, it may honestly be stated that so far, as the penetrating reports from all parts of the country placed before the G. E. B. appear to corroborate, despite the bitter crisis and the acute financial stringency which is affecting most of our Unions, our International organization has stood the harsh test quite well. But every armor, no matter how strong, is bound to have its weak spots, and these points as lesser resistance will have to be strengthened and vitalized. A chain, let us remember, is only as strong as its weakest link, and the International cannot afford to have weak links in its body. The decision of the General Executive Board reaffirming its policy of unified action based on the fundamental principle that a deviation from or a breakdown of its policy in one sector must lead inevitably to a weakening of its position all along the line, is therefore doubly heartening and encouraging at this moment.

And the membership of our Union, which today like in former years is looking hopefully to the leadership of the International to bring it safely through the hazards of the present industrial debacle, will not be found wanting in loyalty and wholehearted support of every constructive move and policy initiated by the leadership of their organization.

2 WEEKS in LOCAL 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER

All Amendments Finally Adopted

The balance of the amendments proposed by the Constitution Committee were finally acted upon and adopted at the last special member meeting on Monday, February 9. The work of the Constitution Committee appointed a few months ago is, therefore, now completed.

Owing to the long list of amendments involving different points and various phases of our constitution, some of which did not receive unanimous approval of the entire committee, the last few meetings were replete with debate and discussion, in which many members participated. And notwithstanding the high tension that permeated the atmosphere at the meetings as matters of controversial nature were being discussed, all propositions received thorough consideration and every one who desired to air his views was given full latitude to do so, before the membership voted upon these.

After the last amendment was adopted, it was decided to refer all adopted proposed amendments back to the Constitution Committee for the purpose of compiling and reconstructing them in correct form. It was also decided that the office be empowered to print 5,000 books of the new amended constitution, a copy of which shall be given to each member, at cost. A list of the adopted amendments will appear on this page in the next issue of "Justice."

Association of Dress Manufacturers Requests Abolition of Cutting Departments Operated by Jobbers.

On Tuesday, January 27, 1931, a conference was held between the Union and the Association of Dress Manufacturers. This conference was called by the latter for the purpose of discussing what they called the most important problems facing them at present, and for which they claimed Local 10 is chiefly responsible, namely, maintenance of skeleton shops by jobbers operating cutting departments only.

This condition they claim works havoc on their membership and is detrimental to the interests of the Dress Trade, inasmuch as that makes it impossible to compete with contractors who take up cut-work at much lower prices.

They further intimated that the cut-up system in the Dress Industry is not only permitted by Local 10, but is also abetted in every possible way. They, therefore, called upon the representatives of the

Dress Joint Board to prevail upon Local 10 immediately to launch a drive against these Jobbers so that they may either be compelled to open up factories where they will have to employ full complements of workers, such as finishers, operators, graders, etc., or become outright merchants and be deprived of the privilege of employing cutters.

Local 10, at this conference was represented by Manager Samuel Perlmutter and Assistant Manager Philip Orelsky. Brother David Dubinsky, Sec'y-Treas., of the International, who attended a previous conference of the same nature, was unable to attend this conference due to illness in the family.

The representatives of Local 10 in unequivocal terms, presented their side by explaining to the Association that Local 10 will absolutely refuse to enter into such enterprise, and, in addition to that, will do all in its power to organize cutters regardless of where they are employed.

The reasons given for this attitude on the part of Local 10, are various: Cutters employed in these cutting departments in most cases were found to work under sub-standard conditions, receiving lower wages, in some cases \$20.00, to \$25.00, per week, and even less, and working as many as 48 and 50 hours per week. Failure to organize these cutters would mean placing the legitimate employers at a great disadvantage and up against unfair competition, and what is even more important, the cutters working in legitimate shops would eventually have to suffer by reason of the fact that cutters employed in the jobbing establishments and working under sub-standard conditions would gradually undermine work conditions.

The jobbers operating cutting departments have no desire to offer union conditions to the cutters, much less to enter into any contractual relations with Local 10. In most cases it requires extraordinary energy and bitter struggles to force them to accept union terms. To compel these jobbers to enter contractual relations with the Cutters' Union, means forcing them to assume union obligations, and because of this permanent campaign conducted by Local 10, some jobbers were forced to give up their cutting departments, as in the case of Louis Wertheimer. The Association of Dress Manufacturers should find it easy to grasp that their lot is made easier largely by reason of these activities of Local 10.

It was pointed out to the Association that constant vigilance and organization campaigns against jobbers operating cutting departments is a much more forceful weapon against the cutting-up system than any other conceivable method. If Local 10 were to accept the suggestion of the Association to withdraw cutters from these shops, the cutters would immediately find themselves unemployed, and the question put to the Association by the representatives of Local 10, was, whether the Association would guarantee the cutters, who left their jobs, other places. If that assurance would be given there

(Continued on Page 7)